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FCC COMMENCES 2013 EEO AUDITS

On February 26, 2013, the Federal Communications Commission mailed the first of its Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) audit letters for 2013 to randomly selected radio and television stations. In accordance with the provisions of Section 73.2080(f)(4) of the Commission's EEO rules, the FCC annually audits the EEO programs of randomly selected broadcast licensees. Each year, approximately five percent of all radio and television stations are selected for EEO audits. This year we have modified the audit letter in certain respects to reduce audit burdens on stations while at the same time encouraging broader job outreach. Although we are requesting fewer job notices, on-air ad logs, information on initiatives that go beyond our requirements, and some other items, we will still be thoroughly auditing programs for compliance with our rules. We intend for reduced response burdens to encourage stations to have vigorous recruitment without needing to provide as much detail as before in audit responses.

Attached are a list of the radio and television stations to which the audit letters were sent, as well as the text of the February 26, 2013 audit letter. The list and the letter can also be viewed by accessing the Media Bureau's current EEO headline page on the FCC website at http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/equal-employment-opportunity-2013-headlines.

For stations that have a website and five or more full-time employees:

We remind you that you must post your most recent EEO public file report on your website by the deadline by which it must be placed in the public file, in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 73.2080(c)(6). This will be examined as part of the audit. Failure to post the required report on a station website is a violation of the EEO Rule and subject to sanctions, including a forfeiture. Please also note that if your station or employment unit does not have its own website, but its corporate site contains a link to a site pertaining to the station or unit, then the station or unit's most recent EEO public file report must be linked to either the station or unit's site or the general corporate site, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.2080(c)(6).

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